During the last several years, CAD/CAM technology has undergone enormous development and is still one of the most innovative segments in dentistry. This was plainly evident at the beginning of the year at the International Dental Show in Cologne, where dozens of manufacturers presented new systems, as well as CAD/CAM solutions and software.

There is no doubt that digital technology has changed dental offices and laboratories forever. Digital imaging, digital impressions, guided surgery, CAD/CAM-supported manufacturing processes and high-quality materials increase the precision of implant structures and prosthetic restorations, and facilitate better diagnostics and treatment planning.

Digitalisation of dental offices is not limited to the fabrication of dental restorations: a computerised office also means the collection and storage of data. Patient data is increasingly stored in digital format. The more sophisticated the program used, the greater the amount of patient information collected, and it is imperative that this data be stored securely.

In this issue of the CAD/CAM magazine, you will find very well-illustrated and documented articles on guided implant surgery, CAD/CAM-supported restorative dentistry, digital denture manufacture, as well as practice management and data security. Lina Craven explains the key role of a treatment coordinator in the dental practice, and highly experienced information technology professional Naz Haque presents his opinion on data protection and the relevant legislation in the UK. Also informative is the interview with Israeli-based dentist Dr Andy Wolff, who has worked as a medical expert in dental malpractice litigation for many years. He explains, among other matters, why patients tend to go to court more often nowadays, and what medical professionals can do to protect themselves against legal disputes.

I hope you will find this issue illuminating and that the knowledge you gain is applicable in your daily practice.

Yours faithfully,

Magda Wojtkiewicz
Managing Editor